

Australian Ambassador Arthur Sinodinos. On March 18, 2023, Mr. Sinodinos is to step down as Australian Ambassador to the United States after more than three years of service in this role. He has been an extraordinary public servant who has strengthened the bridge between the United States and our Indo-Pacific ally through 2 U.S. administrations and a global pandemic.

Mr. Sinodinos history in public service extends far beyond his time as Australian Ambassador. Upon his graduation from the University of New Castle in 1979, he immediately picked up work in the federal civil service of the Albanese government, transitioning between rising roles in both the Department of Finance and Treasury. Throughout these years, Mr. Sinodinos had proven his skill in both policy and process, and he ultimately joined the Howard Administration as Chief of Staff upon Prime Minister John Howard's election in 1996. Notably, Mr. Sinodinos worked as the senior advisor to the leader of Australia's Liberal Party near through to the conclusion of Prime Minister Howard's tenure, leaving the government in 2006.

After a brief stint in the private sector, Mr. Sinodinos joined the Australian Senate in 2011, representing his home state of New South Wales. He earned reelection to the Senate in 2013, and worked in several cabinet positions throughout this tenure of public service including Minister of Industry, Innovation and Science. Though he was one of the stronger voices in the Liberal Party, Mr. Sinodinos maintained a respected reputation across both sides of the aisle until his time in the Senate ended in 2019.

That brings us to 2020, Mr. Speaker, when Mr. Sinodinos was appointed to the position of Australian Ambassador. With more than 4 decades of experience advancing the interests of the Australian people, a more suitable person could not have been chosen to strengthen the already immense partnership formed between our 2 democratic nations.

As co-chair of the Friends of Australia Caucus, Chairman and more recently Ranking Member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ambassador Sinodinos on a number of bilateral priorities, including leading a bipartisan group of members to advocate for closer digital trade partnerships between the United States and Australia.

Our degree of coordination exploded into a new era in 2021, with the joint announcement of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) alliance, geared toward ensuring security and the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region. Upon the formation of this alliance, here in Congress we also established the bipartisan AUKUS Working Group to highlight legislative opportunities that will prioritize the efficacy of the alignment. Ambassador Sinodinos has been a tenacious advocate throughout each of our endeavors together, and was tremendous in supporting our legislative priorities on AUKUS including the first ever legislative action to allow Australian submariners to attend Nuclear Power School in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Sinodinos' presence in the United States has been a testament to the unique bond between our nation and Australia. It will be absolutely critical that those who follow in his footsteps engage with

the same degree of sincerity and hard work. As Mr. Sinodinos, his wife, Elizabeth, and their three children embark on the next chapter of their lives, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in thanking them for their long line of service.

#### HONORING KEENAN DARNELL ANDERSON, A LIFE LOST TOO SOON

##### HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Keenan Darnell Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a father, a life partner to his fiancée, a teacher, and a proud Angeleno. Mr. Anderson was taken from us earlier this year by the brutality and violence of the LAPD. Today, we stand here to honor Mr. Anderson's life, legacy, and contributions to his family and his city.

Mr. Anderson grew up in Los Angeles and from a young age, demonstrated his commitment to his family across Southern California. He was known as the "life of the party," always livening up family cookouts and picnics. Mr. Anderson was a linchpin of his close-knit family. From the time that he was young, Mr. Anderson knew he wanted to dedicate his life to helping others. In college, he focused this dedication on a career in law enforcement, double majoring in criminal justice and sociology. Later, he translated this desire to do good for the world into educating, earning a graduate degree in education.

Mr. Anderson's passion for teaching led him to dedicate his career to educating his community's youth. As a teacher, he taught English to juniors and seniors in high school and even chaired the English department. Mr. Anderson was also invested in the creativity of his students, teaching drama classes that served as an introduction to the arts to many Angeleno youth. He was also a charismatic member of his church where he led family game nights and injected his infectious energy and enthusiasm.

At the time of his untimely death, Mr. Anderson had just moved to Washington, D.C. to teach at Digital Pioneers Academy. Washington, D.C. will forever miss out on the contributions, energy, and inspiration he could have brought to the young people here.

Washington, D.C. students are not the only ones that will forever miss Mr. Anderson. He is survived by his fiancée, Domonique, to whom he was deeply devoted, and his 5 year-old son, Syncere. Mr. Anderson doted on his son, proud to be a father and proud to have his son by side. Mr. Anderson's wrongful murder robbed Syncere of years with his father. On February 7, 2023, Domonique joined me as my guest at the State of the Union, where we continued to highlight the unjust and tragic death of this doting and dedicated father, partner, friend, educator, and member of my community.

Today, we should be celebrating Mr. Anderson's great achievements as a father and a teacher, and the strength and resilience he imbued in his communities. Instead, we must confront the tragedy of his murder at the hands of the LAPD.

Mr. Speaker, this commemoration of the life of Keenan Anderson, a life gone too soon,

adds yet another name to America's tainted legacy of violence against the Black community at the hands of individuals charged with protecting and serving. I honor the memory of Mr. Anderson and commit to working to eliminate the inhumane violence and brutality that took him from us too soon.

#### HONORING AND CELEBRATING DR. ANTONIA PANTOJA

##### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on International's Women Day to honor and celebrate in memoriam Dr. Antonia Pantoja, a Puerto Rican educator, social worker, organizer, prolific author, and resilient social justice activist. Her contributions to the Puerto Rican community and American society are immeasurable.

From a humble upbringing on the outskirts of San Juan, Barrio Obrero, Puerto Rico—Dr. Pantoja emerged as one of the most vocal and passionate advocates for the Puerto Rican Diaspora, inspiring and guiding emerging leaders in New York City since the 1960's. Believing that education and cultural pride were crucial to healing and lifting the community out of poverty, she committed her life to the difficult and necessary awakening of public consciousness. She was a key figure in the fight to resolve the educational and social injustices plaguing the Puerto Rican community in New York. Her contributions were many and include the establishment of bilingual and culturally relevant education in New York and across the U.S.

Despite growing up impoverished, she was a determined student and grateful for the opportunity to pursue her education. She received a teaching certificate from the University of Puerto Rico in 1942.

In 1944, at the age of 22, she emigrated to New York City to further her education. She landed her first job as a wartime welder where she quickly helped form a union that negotiated better work conditions for employees. The seeds of grass-roots activism, that she learned from her grandfather, a union organizer for a tobacco company, would become part of the basic tools for her future work.

Antonia graduated from Hunter College (1952) with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. She went on to earn a Master's Degree from Columbia University School of Social Work (1954) and her Ph.D. from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio (1973).

Early organizing work led to the founding of the Hispanic American Youth Association (HAYA) in 1957 to address the unmet education, healthcare, and employment needs of her community. Shortly thereafter, the organization was renamed the Puerto Rican Association of Community Affairs (PRACA) to address the unique plight of the Puerto Rican Diaspora.

In 1961, Dr. Antonia Pantoja and a group of Puerto Rican educators and professionals created ASPIRA to address the exceedingly high drop-out rate and low educational attainment of Puerto Rican youth. Sparked by the high dropout rates and low educational attainment of Puerto Rican children, Dr. Pantoja worked